

## Complete Glossary Of Shakespearean Language

### Abbreviations

(?)	possible meaning
<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
<i>cf.</i>	compare
<i>esp.</i>	especially
<i>Fr.</i>	French
<i>Gr.</i>	Greek
<i>Ital.</i>	Italian
<i>Lat.</i>	Latin
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>sb.</i>	substantive
<i>v.</i>	verb

'a, a he

**abhor** reject

**abroad** on the move; apart

**absolute** perfect, complete, without limitation; determined

**abuse** *sb.* deception; *v.* deceive

**accident** incident

**achieve** win

**Adam** fallen man, wickedness

**adamant** exceedingly hard metal; magnet

**admiral** flagship

**admire** wonder

**advantage** *sb.* addition; interest; *v.* help, benefit

**Aeneas** Trojan prince who carried his father, Anchises, out of burning Troy and became the lover of Dido before abandoning her to found the Roman state

**affect** *sb.* passion, appetite; affection; *v.* admire, have affection for, favour; impersonate, put on

**affection** feeling, disposition, propensity; passion; affectation

**after** in the manner of

**again** back, reciprocally

**agate** jewel sometimes carved with a small figure

**aidance** help

**aim** conjecture, idea

**Ajax** Greek hero in the Trojan war

**alter** exchange

**amain** aloud; at speed

**an** *see* and

**ancient** standard-bearer

**and** if

**angel** spirit

**anon** in a moment

**Anthropophagi** cannibals

**antic** *sb.* grotesque figure, fool; *adj.* in grotesque disguise, masked

**antre** cave

**Apollo** god of song and music, of the sun, of healing and of the oracle at Delphi; he fell in love with Daphne who was transformed into a laurel as he chased her

**appliance** treatment

**apprehensive** possessing reason

**approve** prove; put to proof

**apt** ready, inclined; probable, likely

**aqua-vitae** strong spirits

**Arabian bird** the phoenix, a mythical bird supposed to be unique

**arbitrement** arbitration, decision

**argument** theme, subject of controversy; proof, demonstration

**Arion** poet who charmed a dolphin into carrying him over the waves

**arm-gaunt** lean from bearing arms

**aroynt** thee be off with you

**Ate** goddess of confusion and strife

**aught** anything

**avoid** leave, begone

**back** saddle or ride (a horse)

**ban** *sb.* curse; *v.* curse

**Banbury** cheese proverbially thin cheese

**bank** shore

**banquet** light refreshment

**Barbary** breed of horse

**bark** ship

**base-court** lower courtyard

**bastinado** cudgelling, hefty wallop

**bated** let off

bawd pimp  
 bay chase with barking  
 beached of the beach  
 beadle parish constable  
 beaver helmet's visor  
 beck *sb.* beckoning; *v.* beckon  
 become be appropriate for,  
     suit  
 bedlam insane  
 bend turn  
 bent limit, disposition  
 betem grant, allow  
 bide endure  
 bite the thumb make an insulting gesture  
 blastment blight  
 blazon *sb.* coat of arms; proclamation;  
     description; *v.* proclaim; describe  
 blind-worm slow-worm  
 block mould for shaping a hat; mounting-  
     block (for mounting horses)  
 blood character, disposition; appetite,  
     passion  
 blow swell; (of plants) blossom  
 bodkin short dagger; hair-pin  
 bolt arrow  
 bolting-hutch sifting-bin  
 bombard wine vessel  
 bones rustic musical instrument  
     accompanied by bells or tongs  
 boot *sb.* booty; advantage, help; *v.* help  
 borrowed taken, feigned, not genuine  
 bots maggot infection in horses  
 bottom ship's hold, ship  
 bounce bang  
 bourn limit; burn, brook  
 boy endow with the characteristics of a boy  
 brach bitch-hound  
 brave fine, admirable; fearless, insolent  
 brinded patterned with streaks  
 broach pierce  
 broken fragmented  
 Bucklersbury London street known for its  
     apothecaries  
 buff hard-wearing leather worn by  
     constables  
 burgonet close-fitting helmet  
 burn heat up; light up; burn daylight =  
     waste time  
 burthen burden; refrain (of song)  
 by and by immediately; in due course  
  
 cabin hut  
 Cain son of Adam and Eve, who murdered  
     his brother Abel

candied frosted, as if with sugar  
 canker sore; wild rose; parasitic caterpillar  
 canon Church law, *hence* law, edict  
 canton song  
 capable responsive, appreciative;  
     capacious; qualified to inherit  
 Capitol temple of Jupiter in Rome  
 carcanet jewelled necklace  
 card, by the correctly  
 carriage carrying; ability to carry  
 carry-tale spy  
 carve *v.* compliment; carve for oneself =  
     be independent  
 case question; body, skin or clothes; in case  
     = in a position or mood  
 cashiered discarded  
 cast vomit; discharge  
 caterpillar parasite  
 censure judgement; opinion  
 centre the earth's mid-point  
 century one hundred  
 cess ceasing, decease  
 chaps chops, jaws  
 character write  
 charactery writing  
 chare chore  
 chase hunt  
 cheapen bargain for  
 check rebuke  
 cherubin cherub  
 childe title used by young nobles aspiring  
     to knighthood  
 childing generative, fertile  
 choler one of the four humours  
     (*see* **humour**); anger  
 chough jackdaw  
 civet perfume derived from a civet cat's  
     anal glands  
 civil of citizens, urban; well-behaved  
 clip encircle, embrace  
 close *sb.* encounter; (in music) cadence;  
     *adj.* secret; secretive  
 cloth-of-gold sumptuous, top-quality  
     cloth  
 clown person from the country  
 cock rowing boat towed behind a larger  
     ship; weathercock  
 cockatrice legendary creature with a fatal  
     stare  
 cockle cockleshell; weed; cockle hat =  
     pilgrim's hat  
 cod husk  
 coil commotion, fuss  
 collied darkened

**colour** *sb.* appearance; pretext; sort, type; *v.* disguise  
**commeddled** mingled  
**commodity** supply of merchandise  
**complain** bewail  
**complexion** constitution, nature; face  
**compt** account, reckoning; the Day of Judgement  
**con** study, memorize  
**conclusion** experiment  
**condition** disposition; compact, contract  
**condolement** grieving  
**conscience** matter of conscience; mind, thoughts  
**consign** subscribe, endorse  
**continent** container, vessel  
**conversation** social conduct  
**converse** associate, be in company (with)  
**convert** change  
**cope** encounter; have dealings  
**Corinthian** one from Corinth, ancient city known for its licentiousness and partying  
**corporal** of the body, physical  
**correctioner** one from the 'House of Correction'  
**costard** large apple; the head  
**cote** *sb.* cottage; *v.* overtake  
**couch** lie hidden  
**counsel** secrets  
**countenance** face, outward appearance, demeanour; approval, patronage  
**countervail** counterbalance, be equal to  
**course** sail of a ship  
**cousin** any near relation  
**coz** cousin (*see* **cousin**)  
**cozen** cheat  
**crab** crab apple  
**crank** *sb.* winding passage; *v.* twist and turn  
**cressets** fire-baskets, beacons  
**cross-gartered** wearing garters above and below the knee (and so crossed behind)  
**crow-flower** the ragged robin flower  
**crown imperial** the fritillary plant  
**crudy** thick  
**crupper** strap fixing the saddle to the horse's back end  
**cry** *sb.* barking pack of hounds; rumour; *v.* proclaim  
**cunning** skilful; ingenious  
**Cupid** son of Venus, a winged boy, sometimes thought of as blind, whose

arrows caused people to fall in (and out of) love  
**curious** elaborate  
**cushes** thigh-armour  
**cypress** cypress wood; crape, linen  
**Cytherea** the goddess Venus  
  
**dainty** particular, finicky  
**dam** mother  
**darkling** in the dark  
**date** fixed term or limit  
**dear** important; intense, ardent  
**debate** contend about  
**deboshed** debauched  
**deed** performance, doing  
**deep-fet** fetched from deep down  
**deer** animals  
**demi-cannon** large gun  
**derogate** degenerate, debased  
**design** purpose, enterprise  
**dial** clock; sundial  
**Diana** goddess of chastity, hunting and the moon  
**diet** prescribed course; food  
**difference** distinguishing mark in heraldry  
**Dis** Pluto, god of the under-world  
**disable** disparage  
**disaster** sign of ill-omen, as seen in the stars  
**discandy** melt, thaw  
**discourse** *sb.* talk, conversation; process or faculty of reasoning; *v.* talk  
**discovery** revelation  
**diseased** made uneasy, troubled  
**dispark** put (parkland) to other uses  
**distance** (in fencing) correct space between the opponents  
**distaste** make distasteful  
**distract** *adj.* deranged, confused; *v.* divide; confuse  
**distressful** gained by misery and toil  
**divers** several, various, different;  
**division** musical notes that elaborate upon a basic melody; military arrangement  
**doctrine** lesson  
**dogged** dog-like, cruel  
**dole** grief; share; **happy man be his dole** = may his lot be that of a happy man (*i.e.* good luck to him)  
**doom** *sb.* judgement; day of judgement; *v.* judge, sentence  
**doublet and hose** vest and breeches (basic Elizabethan male dress)

doubt *sb.* suspicion; fear; *v.* suspect;  
     fear  
 doxy female beggar  
 drab strumpet  
 draw drain  
 drawer tapster, waiter  
 dress adorn  
 ducat gold coin  
  
 eager sharp, bitter  
 easy easily won over; small, light  
 ecstasy deranged mental state;  
     unconsciousness  
 eld old age; people of a previous time  
 element one of the four universal  
     substances (earth, water, air, fire)  
 elf fairy, spirit  
 elf-locks hair tangled or matted together  
 Elysium abode of the virtuous after death  
     in the ancient world  
 elm tree used to train vines  
 eminence superiority, high rank  
 emulation envious rivalry  
 engine plot, device; instrument; military  
     machine  
 engineer contriver, plotter, creator; maker  
     of military works or machines  
 engross fatten; amass, gather; monopolize  
 enskied placed in heaven  
 enseamed greasy  
 entertain employ; maintain  
 entertainment treatment; employment  
 envy malice, spite  
 Eracles Hercules  
 Erebus place of darkness on the way to the  
     underworld  
 ergo therefore (*Lat.*)  
 event outcome  
 ever always; **not ever** = not always  
 exempt separated, far away  
 exercise devotional exercise  
 exhalation meteor, falling star  
 expectancy expectation, hope  
 expense expenditure  
 express *adj.* well formed, well executed; *v.*  
     show forth, make known  
 extemporal extempore  
 extenuate mitigate, weaken the force of  
 extravagant straying beyond its proper  
     bounds, vagrant  
  
 faculty power; quality, nature  
 fain gladly  
 fall *sb.* cadence in music; *v.* let fall, bring

down; befall; happen, turn out; waste  
 away; fall off = revolt  
 fame public image or opinion  
 familiar *sb.* close friend; *adj.* native,  
     accustomed  
 fan sift (*e.g.* grain) by means of an air  
     current  
 fancy love  
 fancy-free free from love  
 fangled pretentiously fashionable  
 fantastic *sb.* person given to flights of  
     fancy; fop, gallant; *adj.* of the mind;  
     given to or produced by extravagant  
     flights of fancy, crazy  
 fantastical *see* fantastic (*adj.*)  
 fantasy imagination; imagining, fancy;  
     self-delusion  
 farced stuffed  
 fardel pack  
 fashions farcy, a disease in horses  
 fat stuffy; (?) sweating  
 fault sin; misfortune  
 favour appearance, face, feature; charm;  
     token of good will  
 feature appearance of the body  
 fell terrible, savage  
 fico fig (*Ital.*); contemptuous exclamation;  
     obscene gesture sometimes called the  
     'fig of Spain'  
 figure numeral or letter; esoteric diagram;  
     rhetorical device; imagining  
 film gossamer  
 find find out  
 fine *sb.* end; *adj.* refined  
 fire-new brand-new, as if fresh from the  
     forge  
 firstling first offspring  
 fit be appropriate (for)  
 fives avives, a disease in horses  
 flaw fragment; gust or blast of wind;  
     outburst  
 fleckled spotted, blotchy  
 flesh (in hunting) awaken an appetite for  
     bloodshed  
 flourish fanfare; decoration  
 flower-de-luce *fleur-de-lis* (iris), French  
     heraldic device also used later by  
     English kings  
 flush ripe, full of vigour  
 flushing redness caused by weeping  
 foil defeat, overthrow  
 foin thrust or parry with a sword  
 fond foolish  
 fool jester

for for lack of; for fear of  
 fordo ruin, destroy  
 fordone tired out  
 fork snake's tongue; arrow's head; leg or legs (where the body forks)  
 forked barbed; horned, cuckolded (*cf.* horn)  
 formal conventional, regular  
 frame *sb.* systematic form; design; *v.* form, contrive, execute  
 fraught laden  
 fresh freshwater spring  
 fret adorn, ornament  
 friend family member; lover  
 front forehead, face  
 fumiter the fumitory plant, a weed  
 fury transcendental state; poetic inspiration  
 fust become musty  
 fustian *sb.* coarse cloth; nonsense; *adj.* bombastic, highflown  
  
 gaberdine cloak  
 gage pledge, engage, bind  
 gall suffering; indignation  
 gallow scare  
 garland crown; hero  
 garnish clothe, decorate  
 generous of noble birth  
 genius spirit, especially a person's guardian spirit  
 gentle *sb.* gentleman or gentlewoman; *adj.* noble, well bred  
 germen seed  
 get beget, sire  
 ghost corpse  
 gillyvors gillyflowers  
 glass mirror  
 globe name of Shakespeare's theatre  
 gloss attractive external appearance  
 goodly handsome  
 gossip godparent; merry, talkative woman  
 government self-discipline, self-control  
 grained ingrained  
 groundlings theatregoers who stood in front of the stage  
  
 habit clothing, garments; bearing, disposition  
 habited dressed  
 halcyon kingfisher; halcyon's days = period of calm  
 half-cheeked (of a horse's bit) giving insufficient control

halloo call, shout  
 handsaw small saw; (?) heron  
 handy-dandy take your choice (from a children's game)  
 haply by chance  
 harbinger one who runs on ahead  
 hardness difficulty  
 havoc signal for indiscriminate slaughter  
 hay (in fencing) thrust reaching the antagonist  
 hazard *sb.* dice game; risk; stake; *v.* risk  
 head headland, promontory  
 headstall part of the bridle that fits round the head  
 heavy serious, grievous; sad; tiresome  
 Hecate goddess of witchcraft  
 Hector Trojan hero  
 Hecuba Queen of Troy  
 hedge-pig hedgehog  
 hent reach  
 herb of grace rue  
 Hercules legendary hero, supposedly a kinsman of Theseus  
 Herod biblical tyrant  
 Hiems Winter  
 high-day exclamation of joy  
 hint occasion, opportunity  
 hipped having a dislocated hip-bone  
 hit agree  
 hoar mouldy; whitish  
 home thoroughly  
 honest worthy, decent; truthful; chaste  
 honesty uprightness, decency; chastity; generosity  
 horn deer; sign of a cuckold  
 hose breeches  
 housewife hussy, prostitute  
 howlet owl or owl  
 hugger-mugger secrecy  
 humorous temperamental, capricious, whimsical (*see* humour)  
 humour one of the four physiological 'elements' (melancholy, blood, choler, phlegm) governing disposition, *hence* temperament, mood, inclination  
 hurricano waterspout  
 husband cultivate, manage  
 husbandry management (*cf.* husband), thrift; farming, cultivation  
 hyperbole figure of speech used for exaggeration  
 Hyperion Phoebus, the sun god

idea image	keel cool
ides of March 15 March in the Roman dating system	kind <i>sb.</i> nature; lineage, family; way, manner; <i>adj.</i> natural; gracious
Ilion Troy; palace of Priam in Troy	kindless unnatural
ill-favoured ugly, unpleasant ( <i>cf.</i> favour)	kindly <i>adj.</i> natural, in accordance with one's nature; <i>adv.</i> naturally; graciously; exactly
illness evil nature	kite bird of prey; whore
image archetypal image, perfect example	knoll toll
imaginary imagining, imaginative	knot flower-bed
immediate direct; next in succession	knotted laid with flower-beds ( <i>cf.</i> knot)
impart say, reveal	knotty-pated block-headed
impeachment charge; impediment, hindrance	
impertinency irrelevance, nonsense	laboursome finely worked; persistent
imposition accusation; penalty,	lace interlace, embroider
impostume abscess	lackey page, footman
impress conscription	lady-smock (?) cuckoo-flower
impudency immodesty	lampass a disease in horses
incorporate united in one body	large liberal, unrestrained
incorrect uncorrected, incorrigible	lark's-heels larkspur
indifferent moderately	laud hymn, song of praise
indigested crude, amorphous	lay song
indirection oblique method	lazar leper
influence planetary emanation supposed to exert a determining effect upon men	leaping-house brothel
inform take on a form; direct; report	learn teach
infuse pour into or onto	leer cheek, complexion
injurious abusive, offensive	lees sediment
insensible unable to be sensed	let <i>sb.</i> hindrance; <i>v.</i> hinder; forbear; (of blood) drain off; let slip = let (hounds) loose
insisture (?) persistence; (?) moment of stasis	level line of fire, range; level with = equal
instance proof, sign, evidence; motive	liberal unrestrained
intelligencer messenger; spy	liberty right, prerogative; licence, licentiousness
intrinsicate intricate	lie live, lodge
	lief dear; have as lief = hold as dear, be as willing
Jack, jack term of contempt, meaning fool or knave; mechanized human figure that strikes a clock bell	liege lord
jade mangy or difficult horse	light alight, descend, fall
jealous anxious; suspicious, doubtful	lighten flash, as lightning
jealousy anxiety; suspicion	like <i>adj.</i> likely; <i>adv.</i> alike, identically; <i>v.</i> please; liken; thrive
jointress widow who inherits her husband's estate	lime birdlime, a kind of glue used to trap small birds
Jove Jupiter, principal god in classical mythology, brother and husband of Juno but given to affairs with mortals	limitation time allotted
Jovial of Jupiter, <i>hence</i> kingly, liberal, <i>etc.</i>	line category
jump coincide, agree	lined padded
Juno sister and wife of Jupiter, sometimes associated with marriage, otherwise imagined as formidably jealous and prone to anger	linger protract
just precisely, indeed	lists arena for a contest
	little, in in miniature
	little, in a in brief
	liver dweller; organ supposedly responsible for intense feeling, especially love
	lodge flatten, beat down

long purples kind of wild orchis  
 look upon stand by and watch  
 loon rogue, low-bred person  
 looped full of holes  
 lop cut back or down a tree  
 lose cause to lose; bring to ruin; waste  
 love-in-idleness pansy  
 Lupercal = Lupercalia, an ancient Roman  
     festival at which participants ran  
     around striking the citizens with  
     animal skins  
 lusty vigorous  
 luxurious lecherous  
 luxury lechery  
  
 main *sb.* main part; sea; *adj.* important  
 malicho iniquity  
 malkin wench  
 manage management; (of a horse) training,  
     exercise  
 manhood manliness, masculinity  
 map image  
 margent margin  
 mark (in archery) something aimed at  
 market profit  
 marry a mild oath, from the name of the  
     Virgin Mary  
 Mars god of war and lover of Venus  
 Martin's summer, Saint good weather late  
     in the year (St Martin's day = 11  
     November)  
 martlet swift or house-martin  
 Mary-buds marigolds  
 measure dance or piece of music;  
     punishment  
 mechanic, mechanical *sb.* manual labourer,  
     artisan; *adj.* performing manual  
     labour, common  
 medicinale medicinal, curative  
 melancholy depression, associated with a  
     thickening of the blood  
 memorize make memorable  
 Mercury the messenger god, associated  
     with eloquence; he was depicted with  
     winged sandals  
 mere utter, total  
 merit reward, desert  
 mew confine (a bird) in a cage  
 miching lurking, stealthy  
 mince trivialize; walk or talk in an affected  
     manner  
 minim basic short note-value in Tudor  
     music  
 minion favourite or mistress; slut

minute-jacks clock figures (*cf.* Jack)  
 mirror pattern, example  
 Misanthropos man-hater (*Gr.*)  
 mischief evil; misfortune  
 mobbled with face muffled  
 mockery semblance, imitation  
 model pattern; mould  
 modern trite, commonplace  
 modest moderate, sober  
 moe more  
 moiety portion, sometimes a half  
 monstrosity monstrosity  
 mortified insensate, subdued  
 mose in the chine (?) display the symptoms  
     of glanders (a disease in horses) in its  
     final stages  
 mote speck, mentioned by Christ as a  
     metaphor for trivial sinfulness  
 motion impulse, feeling  
 motive mover, cause or instrument  
 motley pied garments of a jester  
 mountebank pedlar of quack medicines  
 murion infected (of animals)  
 mutine mutiny  
 mutiny riot  
 mutual shared, common; intimate  
 mystery art or craft, calling  
  
 naked unarmed  
 native innate, natural  
 naturalize familiarize  
 naught bad, worthless  
 naughty bad, worthless  
 nave navel  
 near-legged knock-kneed  
 Neptune god of the sea  
 nerve nerve or sinew  
 nervy courageous; sinewy  
 Nestor Hellenic king famed for his  
     advanced age and wisdom  
 next closest  
 nice delicate; particular; refined  
 nine-men's-morris rustic game played on a  
     diagram cut in turf  
 Niobe mother of fourteen children slain by  
     Apollo and Diana, transformed into  
     stone as she wept  
 noise concert or small company of  
     musicians  
 note mark, characteristic; notice,  
     apprehension  
 noyance annoyance, harm  
  
 O the Globe theatre

oblivious causing oblivion or forgetfulness  
 observance observation  
 observation respectful attention  
 observe pay due respect to  
 obstruction lack of movement  
 occasion need; opportunity  
 occupation labour, trade  
 o'erpeer look down upon  
 o'erpicturing outdoing in pictorial  
     qualities  
 offend trouble, injure  
 offer attempt  
 office duty  
 offices servants' quarters, pantry, *etc.*  
 omit neglect, disregard  
 ope open  
 opinion reputation; general opinion;  
     (high) opinion of oneself  
 opposite antagonistic  
 oppress distress  
 oppression distress  
 or ere, before; or . . . or = either . . . or  
 orb ring; earth; *see sphere*  
 ostler groom, stable-boy  
 owe bear  
  
 pace *sb.* horse's trained walk; way, passage;  
     *v.* train or exercise (a horse) in walking  
 paddock toad  
 pageant spectacular show or float  
 pain labour, pains  
 painful involving labour; undergoing  
     labour  
 painted hollow, false  
 pale fence, rail; enclosure  
 palfrey small horse  
 pall wrap  
 palmer pilgrim  
 palmy flourishing, victorious  
 pandar, pander *sb.* pimp, go-between; *v.*  
     serve, as a pandar  
 pantaloons stock figure of the foolish old  
     man in Italian comedy  
 paradox improbable or unusual  
     proposition  
 paragon surpass  
 part *sb.* ability, accomplishment; quality;  
     action; *v.* depart  
 passado forward lunge with a sword  
 passion strong emotion; suffering;  
     passionate speech  
 patch jester, clown  
 paten shallow metal dish, as used in Holy  
     Communion

patience sufferance  
 pattern example, model  
 peculiar own, personal, private  
 pedant schoolmaster  
 Pegasus winged horse associated with the  
     hero Perseus  
 pelican bird supposed to feed its young  
     with its own blood  
 pelting trivial, petty, worthless  
 pencil paintbrush  
 pensioner royal attendant  
 perdition loss; ruin  
 perfect *adj.* matured; ripe, prepared;  
     learned; certain; *v.* finish; enlighten  
 perfection fulfilment  
 petard bomb  
 Phaeton son of Phoebus (*see Phoebus*) and  
     stepson of Merops; attempting to drive  
     Phoebus' sun chariot, he failed to  
     control its horses and almost crashed  
     into the earth, whereupon Jupiter  
     killed him with a lightning bolt  
 phantasma nightmare  
 Philippan from the Battle of Philippi,  
     where Antony and Octavius defeated  
     the republicans  
 Philomel daughter of King Pandion, she  
     was raped and mutilated by her  
     brother-in-law Tereus but revealed her  
     ordeal by depicting it in a tapestry; she  
     was subsequently transformed into a  
     nightingale  
 Phoebus the god Apollo in his role as sun  
     god and father of Phaeton  
     (*see Phaeton*)  
 phoenix fabulous bird supposed to be one  
     of a kind and to rise again from its  
     ashes  
 physic *sb.* medicine; *v.* mend,  
     heal  
 pia mater membrane in the brain, *hence*  
     brain  
 pickers and stealers hands  
 piece masterpiece, paragon  
 pieced supplemented  
 pigeon-livered incapable of anger  
 pitch height  
 place (in falconry) a hawk's highest pitch;  
     high position  
 placket skirt or slit in a skirt  
 plate coin  
 plausible approved, worthy of applause;  
     plausible  
 pleasant jesting



point sword  
 pole standard  
 policy politics; wisdom; strategy; stratagem  
 politician plotter, schemer  
 porpentine porcupine  
 porridge soup, broth  
 port portal, gate  
 portance attitude, behaviour  
 posset *sb.* drink made by curdling hot milk  
     with wine; *v.* curdle  
 post hurry  
 poster one who travels quickly  
 potato supposed to be an aphrodisiac  
 power military force; person in authority;  
     faculty  
 praise virtue, merit  
 prank offensive act  
 precise morally scrupulous, puritanical  
 pregnant skilful; ready  
 preposterous topsy-turvy, perverse  
 presage prediction, omen  
 presence presence chamber, where royalty  
     entertains visitors  
 present *sb.* present moment; *adj.* sudden,  
     immediate; ready; *v.* act  
 presentation representation, image  
 pressure image, as if impressed on wax  
 Prester John legendary ruler of a medieval  
     Eastern kingdom  
 price value  
 prick urge  
 pricksong singing from printed music  
 pride highest pitch; splendour  
 prime *sb.* spring; *adj.* first, principal  
 prithee '(I) pray thee', please  
 prize *sb.* privilege; *v.* esteem, care for  
 process sequence of events; relation, story  
 profit learning, advancement  
 project thought, anticipation  
 Promethean of Prometheus, legendary  
     figure who stole fire from the gods to  
     give to man and was punished by being  
     shackled to a mountain where an eagle  
     pecked at his liver  
 proper decent, fine  
 property individual quality  
 proportion number, magnitude  
 Proserpina maiden abducted by Pluto  
     while she gathered flowers and then  
     imprisoned in the underworld  
 proud resplendent, luxurious  
 provender food, fodder  
 pudding stuffed intestine,  
     sausage

*punto* (in fencing) thrust (*Ital.*); *punto*  
     *reverso* = back-handed thrust  
     (*Ital.*)  
 purblind blind or weak-sighted  
 purpose proposal  
 push crisis; action  
 pyramid obelisk, pillar  
  
 quail overpower  
 quaint ingenious, artful; pretty  
 quality nature; accomplishment; rank;  
     company  
 question *sb.* examination, consideration; *v.*  
     talk (to), discuss  
 questionable which invites questioning  
 quick living; lively; fresh  
 quiddities quibbles  
 quietus clearing of accounts  
 quilllets, quillities quibbles  
 quit acquit; reward, requite  
  
 race hereditary nature; (of horses) stud; (of  
     ginger) root  
 rack cloud or bank of clouds; instrument  
     of torture  
 raisins o'th' sun grapes dried naturally in  
     the open air  
 rank excessively grown or swollen, bloated;  
     sexually excited  
 rankle make sore, aggravate  
 rash sudden, hasty, violent  
 rate estimate, evaluate; be valued at  
 ravined (?) ravenous; (?) having gorged  
     itself  
 ravish violate; enthrall  
 rayed soiled  
 reach range of understanding  
 reason *sb.* something reasonable; talk,  
     discourse; way of thinking; *v.* ask;  
     argue rationally about; explain  
 reck take account of  
 reckless thoughtless, having no care for  
 recommend commend  
 recordation record, memorial  
 rede guidance, instruction  
 reek *sb.* fumes; *v.* be exhaled in the form of  
     smoke or fumes  
 regard *sb.* consideration; heed; *v.* respect,  
     pay attention to; tend  
 region stratum of the atmosphere, sky  
 relish taste, quality  
 relume reignite  
 remember commemorate; remind;  
     mention

**remorse** compassion, sensitivity; (?)  
 obligation  
**remorseful** sensitive, compassionate  
**remover** person who changes or withdraws  
**repair** make one's way  
**reproof** condemnation; disproof  
**resolve** dissolve  
**respect** *sb.* consideration; respectability,  
 worth; *v.* consider; value  
**rest** remain; pause in music  
**resting** changeless  
**restrained** tightly drawn  
**resty** lethargic, idle  
**return** reply  
**reverberate** reverberating, echoing  
**reverso** *see punto*  
**revolt** change or transfer (of allegiance);  
 disgust; rebellion  
**revolution** turn, as of Fortune's or time's  
 wheel; turning of the thoughts  
**ripe** *adj.* ready; urgent; *v.* ripen  
**rivage** shore  
**rivelled** wrinkled  
**robustious** turbulent  
**ronyon** mangy animal; term of abuse for a  
 woman  
**round** direct  
**rub** (in bowls) something that impedes or  
 deflects the bowl from its course  
**rude** rough, unskilled, unsophisticated  
**rue** pity; a herbal plant  
**rugged** bristling  
**rug-headed** having long, wild hair  
**ruinous** in ruins, damaged  
**rump-fed** (?) fed on choice cuts; (?) having  
 fat buttocks  
**russet** reddish-brown, the colour of a  
 coarse cloth worn by peasants  
  
**sack** white wine, often sherry  
**sad** serious, solemn; dark-coloured  
**sadly** seriously, soberly  
**sadness** seriousness  
**safe** well, sound  
**saffron** a dye used in both clothing and  
 food  
**salad** days youth  
**salute** cheer  
**sanctuarize** provide with sanctuary or  
 immunity from punishment  
**sans** without (*Fr.*)  
**sauce** season, spice, make hot  
**saucy** impudent; sexually bold or carefree  
**savour** smell; nature

saw wise saying  
 say speak  
**'Sblood** (by God)'s blood (an oath)  
**scaffoldage** stage  
**scald** scabby, scurvy  
**'scape, scape** *sb.* escapade, transgression; *v.*  
 escape  
**scarf** sling; sash used to indicate rank in the  
 army  
**school** *sb.* university; *v.* teach (a lesson);  
 govern, control  
**scope** purpose, aim; opportunity  
**scorch** cut, gash  
**scorn, take** scorn  
**scotch** gash  
**scour** clean out (a pistol) with a ramrod  
**scroyles** scabby scoundrels  
**scrubbed** dwarfish  
**scruple** doubt  
**scullion** kitchen servant of either sex  
**scutcheon** cheap coat of arms used at  
 funerals  
**sea-coal** superior type of coal transported  
 to London by sea  
**sea-maid** mermaid  
**sect** class, profession; political faction; sex  
**securely** with (false) confidence  
**seel** sew up (the eyelids of a hawk in  
 training)  
**seeming** *sb.* appearance; deception,  
 falseness; *adj.* apparent  
**sense** senses; sexual awareness; mind  
**senseless** insensate, unresponsive  
**sensible** able to sense, having sensation;  
 able to be sensed, material, evident  
**sentence** opinion; decision, ruling;  
 memorable saying  
**sententious** memorable, using choice  
 words  
**sere** *sb.* dried-up condition; *adj.* dry  
**sergeant** arresting officer  
**several** different, various; individual,  
 distinct  
**shadow** illusory image, picture; actor;  
 spirit; ghost  
**shag** rough, untrimmed  
**shame** natural modesty  
**shamefaced** shy; full of shame  
**shard** cow-pat  
**shark up** snatch indiscriminately, as a  
 shark its food  
**shearman** one involved in the manufacture  
 of cloth  
**sherris** sherry

shive slice  
 shoal area of shallow water  
 shoon shoes  
 shoulder-shotten having dislocated  
     shoulders  
 shrewd sharp  
 shrewdly sharply; sorely  
 siege seat, *esp.* of office or high rank  
 sightless invisible; unpleasant to look at  
 silly simple; defenceless  
 simple *sb.* herb used as a medicine;  
     ingredient; *adj.* unadulterated, pure  
 simpleness plain honesty  
 simplicity stupidity  
 single alone, unaided; honest, direct  
 singularity unusual behaviour  
 sith since  
 skill reason  
 slab thick and slimy  
 slander accusation; disgrace; disgraceful  
     person  
 slanderous of accusation; bringing disgrace  
 sleeve a coarse silk  
 slip *sb.* cutting or graft from a plant; leash;  
     *v.* unleash (a greyhound)  
 sliver split off  
 smock petticoat  
 smoke fog  
 smooth *sb.* flatter, indulge; gloss over; *adj.*  
     flattering  
 solicit urge, excite; make petition  
 sooth truth  
 sort rank; lot; way; keeping company  
     (with)  
 sound fathom  
 spavin tumour on a horse's leg-joint  
 sped ruined  
 speed fare; meet with success  
 spend speak; use up  
 sphere (in Ptolomaic astronomy) one of  
     the massive crystalline spheres around  
     the earth in which the planets, stars,  
     *etc.* were believed fixed; they revolved,  
     generating harmonious music,  
     inaudible on earth  
 spill destroy  
 spinners (?) spiders; (?) craneflies  
 spinster woman spinning flax or wool  
 spleen organ supposedly responsible for  
     fierce passion, laughter and  
     melancholy, *hence* the abstract  
     condition or a fit or bout of any of  
     these moods  
 spoil sacking, carrying off booty; booty

spot blemish  
 springe snare for catching birds  
 spurn *sb.* blow, rude rejection; *v.* kick  
     fiercely  
 square *sb.* measuring rule; *adj.* just, fair  
 squash unripe pea-pod  
 staff quarterstaff, spear or lance  
 staggers disease in horses causing  
     staggering  
 stain *sb.* blemish; *v.* eclipse  
 stair-work furtive business on the back  
     stairs  
 stale make stale; cheapen, debase  
 stamp *sb.* seal, official mark; *v.* create,  
     manufacture, (of coins) mint  
 stand stand about; stand still; stand up to  
 staple texture of wool  
 start frighten  
 starve destroy, *esp.* with cold, freeze; suffer  
     or perish with cold  
 state property, condition or social position;  
     throne; court  
 station stance, posture  
 statist politician, man of affairs  
 stay *sb.* support; *v.* check, interrupt;  
     support, hold (up); wait  
 stew brothel  
 stick pierce, kill  
 still *adj.* constant; *adv.* always, constantly;  
 stilly quietly  
 stint stop  
 stithy smithy, forge  
 stock family  
 stomach part of the body supposedly the  
     seat of pride, ambition and courage;  
     appetite; inclination  
 stoop bow, bend over  
 stop (in horseriding) rapid switch from a  
     gallop to a halt; point where the finger  
     determines a note on a musical  
     instrument  
 strain force; transgress; pervert; strain  
     courtesy = be unceremonious; hang  
     back  
 strait narrow passage  
 strange alien, foreign, unfamiliar;  
     remarkable  
 strangely like a foreigner or stranger;  
     remarkably  
 stratagem trick, plot; violent act  
 strength body of soldiers  
 strike (of a planet) ruin with evil influence;  
     resound  
 stubborn hard, rigid

**stuffed** congested; full (of qualities or accomplishments)  
**succeed** follow; pass by succession  
**succession** that which follows  
**sue** make a petition, ask  
**sufferance, suff'rance** suffering; patience, endurance  
**suggestion** prompting; temptation  
**suppose** estimate  
**surcease** end, *hence* death  
**sure** safe  
**swagger** act like a bragging ruffian  
**swashing** swashbuckling, rough  
**sway** *sb.* rule, authority, control; *v.* rule, exert influence  
**swayed** broken, deformed  
**sweat** plague  
**sweet** *sb.* scent; flower; *adj.* scented  
**sweeting** sweet apple, used as a term of affection  
  
**table** writing-tablet  
**taffeta** type of silk  
**taint** fault  
**take** encounter; enchant, possess  
**tang** clang forth, as a bell  
**tardy** off, come executed inadequately  
**tarry** await  
**Tartar** Mongol, an archer warrior from the East  
**tax** charge, reproach, condemn  
**teem** breed, *esp.* abundantly  
**temper** character as defined by the humours (*see* **humour**); stability of character, as from a balance of the humours  
**temperate** well-tempered, balanced, modest  
**tempt** make trial of  
**tender** *sb.* offer, token; *v.* attend to; offer, lay (down); cherish  
**Termagant** a blustering, villainous role in the Mystery plays  
**tetchy** touchy, irritable  
**tetter** disfiguring skin complaint  
**text** motto; sermon  
**Thane** Scottish nobleman of middling rank  
**thews** sinews, strength  
**thick** *adj.* dull; numerous; *adv.* in a hectic manner, hurriedly  
**thing**, a something  
**think** be gloomily introspective  
**thought** melancholy contemplation; with a thought = quick as a thought

**three-piled** of thick, costly velvet  
**thrift** profit  
**thwart** cross  
**tickle** flatter; entertain  
**tide** full flood, chance for action  
**tinct** colouring  
**title** entitlement, claim  
**to cry** of encouragement  
**toil** hunter's snare or net  
**touch** brushstroke; facial feature  
**toy** something trivial or imaginary  
**trade** traffic, business  
**trade-fallen** out of work  
**trammel up** entangle, as in a net  
**transfix** pierce, impale  
**translate** metamorphose  
**travail** *sb.* labour; journey; *v.* labour  
**trencher** wooden plate  
**trencher-friends** friends won by feeding  
**trencher-knight** one who is brave only at the dinner table  
**tribune** Roman magistrate representing the interests of ordinary citizens  
**trick** trifle; knack; distinctive feature  
**triple** third  
**triumph** pageant of processions and tournaments  
**truncheon** baton, symbol of military command  
**try** test, prove  
**tup** (of a ram) mount, penetrate  
**tyranny** violence, fierceness  
  
**umber** brown earth  
**unaccommodated** not provided with the usual clothes or comforts  
**unadvised** unintentional  
**unavoided** unable to be avoided, inevitable  
**unbitted** unrestrained  
**unclasp** open up, reveal  
**unction** ointment  
**undergo** go under, bear  
**unexpressive** unable to be expressed  
**unfold** open up, expose, reveal  
**unhandsome** unskilful  
**unhappy** unlucky, cursed  
**unimproved** unchecked, unrestrained  
**unjust** false  
**unkind** acting against one's family or the natural order  
**unproportioned** unruly, unrestrained  
**unrespective** heedless  
**untrimmed** stripped; set off balance

unvalued of no value; of inestimable value  
 unyoked unbridled  
 use custom, habit, way; interest; profit  
  
 vacancy spare time; air; the vacuum  
     created by a removal of air  
 vain foolish  
 value evaluate, consider  
 vaunt-couriers forerunners  
 vein spirit, style  
 velure velvet  
 velvet-guards those wearing fine clothes;  
     guards = trimmings of a garment  
 vent *sb.* venting; *v.* discharge  
 ventricle chamber in the brain  
 Venus goddess of love and lover of Mars  
 Ver Spring  
 verge rim  
 vice a comic villain in sixteenth-century  
     moral interludes  
 vicious wicked  
 vie vie with, rival  
 vigil evening before a feast-day  
 villain person of low birth, servant  
 viol stringed instrument, a predecessor of  
     the violin family  
 virtue masculine virtue, courage; power;  
     essence  
 vizarded masked  
 voice determining say, vote  
 vouch testify  
 voyage enterprise  
 Vulcan god of fire and cuckolded husband  
     of Venus, represented as a smith  
 vulgar of or among the ordinary people,  
     common  
  
 wag go, move  
 wake not sleep, stay up  
 want lack; feel the lack of  
 wanton vibrant, skittish; delicate  
 warden type of pear or apple  
 ware beware  
 warp turn; change  
 war-proof, of experienced in war  
 warrant guarantee  
 warren enclosure for rabbits and other  
     game  
 waste consume, destroy  
 watch *sb.* fixed period of time; *v.* catch by  
     lying in wait for

watchful sleepless, of sleeplessness  
 wealth prosperity  
 wear wear out  
 weed piece of clothing  
 welkin sky  
 westward ho! Thames watermen's call for  
     passengers heading west  
 whirligig spinning-top  
 whoreson bastard, used technically,  
     offensively or affectionately  
 wild deserted, wasteland; headstrong,  
     unthinking  
 wilderness wildness, wild stock  
 will sexual organ  
 wimpled muffled, blindfolded  
 wind *sb.* breath; (in hunting) direction  
     of the wind and thus of scent; *v.*  
     wheedle  
 windgalls tumours on the legs of horses  
 wink shut the eyes  
 winking with closed eyes  
 winnow sift, refine  
 wit *sb.* mind, intelligence, cleverness; *v.*  
     know; five wits = five mental  
     faculties  
 withal *prep.* with; *adv.* therewith, with  
     (something specified)  
 without outside, beyond  
 witty intelligent, clever  
 woodbine honeysuckle or similar plant  
 woodcock a stupid, easily trapped bird  
 woollen, in the in scratchy blankets  
 world body  
 worm snake  
 worn worn out  
 worship dignity  
 worshipped dignified  
 wot know (*cf.* wit)  
 wrack wrecking, wreck  
 wrath raging passion  
 writ Holy writ, scripture  
  
 yea-forsooth given to using mild oaths in a  
     servile manner  
 yellows jaundice in horses  
 yest yeast, foam  
 younger younger son, prodigal  
  
 zany clown's assistant  
 zounds (by God)'s wounds (an oath)

**Have you found any additional terms to include?  
Add them below!**